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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2005

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE  
THEMES:

HEADLINES  
BRIEFING  
EDITORIAL OPINION

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Tuesday, December 20, 2005

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

Bush Confessed his Mistakes in Iraq - Sabah  
Bush Admits that there were no WMDs in Iraq - Vatan  
NATO: PKK is a Terrorist Organization - Milliyet  
A Blow from NATO to PKK - Turkiye  
US Ambassador Wilson: PKK is Threat to the Whole World -  
Turkiye  
NATO Control for All of Afghanistan - Hurriyet  
Government asks for Patience in Pamuk Case - Aksam  
Ambassador Wilson: Turkey Will Resolve Freedom of Expression  
Problems - Aksam  
Harsh Reaction from Government to Lagendijk - Hurriyet  
Folklore Costumes Cause Controversy - Milliyet  
CHP Leader Baykal Meets with President Sezer - Vatan  
CIA Seeks Turkish Teachers - Milliyet  
Ahmedinejad Bans Western Music in Iran - Sabah

OPINION MAKERS

Government Disagrees on Article 301 of Penal Code - Radikal  
Turkey Presses NATO to Include PKK on Terror List - Radikal  
TRNC (Northern Cyprus) Parliament Passes Property Law -  
Radikal  
Bush Admits that his Mistakes in Iraq War led to Terrible  
Losses - Cumhuriyet  
American Radar for Syrian Border - Radikal  
More Turkish Troops will be Deployed in Afghanistan - Zaman  
Warm Messages from US Ambassador to Businessmen - Yeni Safak

BRIEFING

NATO Secretary General Scheffer's Visit: Today's papers  
cover the NATO chief's visit to Ankara. "Hurriyet" reports  
that Scheffer, during his meetings yesterday, suggested that  
NATO control in Kabul and surrounding areas be expanded to  
cover the rest of Afghanistan, and asked PM Erdogan for  
Turkish support on this issue. "Radikal" reports that  
Turkey urged NATO to upgrade its terror list to include the  
PKK. "Sabah" says Scheffer stressed that he personally  
considers PKK a terrorist organization. However, unless all  
26 members of NATO agree, it is not possible to upgrade the  
terror list.

Article 301 Controversy: "Radikal" reports that the members  
of the government had a heated debate regarding the Turkish  
penal code. Chief EU negotiator Ali Babacan proposed that  
the government change article 301 of the penal code in order  
to remove all obstacles to freedom of expression. Justice  
Minister Cemil Cicek, in return, rejected Babacan's proposal  
by saying that jurists should deal with judicial issues and  
economists should deal with economic issues. Meanwhile,  
regarding the Pamuk case, "Hurriyet" says that Justice  
Minister Cicek might not grant permission for the trial to  
continue, and in that case, the suit against Pamuk would be  
dropped.

Government Reacts to Lagendijk Comments: "Cumhuriyet"  
reports that Government spokesman Cemil Cicek condemned  
Joost Lagendijk's comment that the Turkish military "enjoys"  
fighting the PKK as it keeps them at the center of  
attention. Cicek said that foreign visitors should be more  
respectful of Turkey's values. Lagendijk is co-chairman of  
the EU-Turkey Joint Parliamentary Commission.  
Ambassador Wilson in Istanbul: "Aksam" reports that US  
Ambassador Ross Wilson visited Topkapi Palace yesterday.  
Referring to the Pamuk case, the Ambassador commented that  
Turkish people will resolve problems regarding freedom of  
expression themselves. The US appreciates all the reforms  
PM Erdogan and his government implemented; however, Turkey  
has great difficulties ahead of it and more detailed reforms  
are needed to overcome these difficulties. "Turkiye" quotes  
Ambassador Wilson as saying that "The PKK presence in

Northern Iraq is a threat not only for Turkey but for the whole world. We will fight against the PKK together with Turkey. The PKK is an important part of our counterterrorism efforts. "Yeni Safak" says that Ambassador Wilson came to Istanbul to meet with Turkish businesspeople at the Turkish-American Business Council. He delivered a genuine and warm message to the group, and promised more American investment in Turkey.

EDITORIAL OPINION: Afghanistan; Iraq

"NATO and Afghanistan in 2006"

Fikret Ertan commented in the Islamist-intellectual "Zaman" (12/20): "The year 2006 will be busy for both NATO and the United States. The Secretary General of NATO has been actively working to expand the power of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) by increasing the number of military personnel. The required number is around 7,000 and Secretary General Scheffer is knocking on every NATO

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member's door for this reason. NATO presence is going to be expanded in 2006 and the US 'Operation Lasting Freedom' will also continue in Afghanistan. There are about 20,000 American soldiers engaged in this operation currently stationed in Afghanistan, but the US wants to reduce its presence and delegate more to ISAF and NATO. So far these efforts have not been very successful. Unlike the US presence, the ISAF-NATO force will not be a combatant force. ISAF likes to define its responsibility as assisting Afghani forces with stability and security. However, there is still an unanswered question here: What will happen if and when ISAF forces encounter Taliban and Al-Qaeda elements? There is also a potential area for some confusion in terms of overall command structure as both ISAF and the US forces will engage in activities under separate commands. In any case the year 2006 will be a very important year for Afghanistan and the Afghanistan-NATO relationship."

"Is It the End or the Beginning?"

Haluk Ulman observed in economic-political "Dunya" (12/20): "Is it really possible to achieve internal peace and order in Iraq in the aftermath of the elections? I believe it is too early to be optimistic. Along with the Sunni-led insurgency, Iraq is also suffering from the lack of a national identity. Elections were held on either ethnic -- Arab and Kurd -- or religious -- Shiite or Sunni -- premises. This signals a very dangerous division in the country which makes unity almost impossible. Within each group there are divisions as well. Shiites are divided into four groups while Sunnis into two. The Kurds seem to be the only unified group. The parties of Talabani and Barzani managed to form a unified list covering a total of eight groups. Kurds also enjoy the full support of the US as well as certain privileges as defined in the constitution. From now on the Kurds will focus on expanding their territory to include oil-rich Mosul. All of these are sufficient indicators for potential chaos not only in Iraq but in the entire region. Nothing has ended in Iraq. In fact things are just beginning. And it will continue to be a headache for all of us, including the US, in the days to come."

WILSON